

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 03572 130945Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 IO-13  
USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 DHA-02 PM-04 /080 W  
----- 107388 /22

R 130730Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2912  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 3572

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, CD  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR AID FOR CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 3512

1. RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES HERE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH, WEST GERMANS, AND RUSSIANS HAVE RECEIVED REQUESTS PARALLEL TO THAT IN REFTEL FOR AIRPLANES TO ASSIST IN DELIVERY OF DROUGHT RELIEF SUPPLIES.
  2. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAS PROMISED TO INFORM ME EARLY NEXT WEEK JUST WHEN PLANES WOULD BE NEEDED, FOR HOW LONG, AND FOR WHICH REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.
  3. IN BEST OF ALL WORLDS, CHADIAN REQUEST WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN MADE; CHAD WOULD HAVE FORESEEN ITS NEEDS EARLIER AND MADE REQUEST TO THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH IN TURN WOULD HAVE TAKEN IMMEDIATE ACTION. THEREFORE, THE EXPENSIVE AND SOMEWHAT INEFFICIENT PRACTICE OF USING AIRPLANES FOR BULK CARGO WOULD HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY. HOWEVER, SUCH UTOPIANISM IS NONEXISTENT AND WE ARE NOW FACED WITH A SITUATION IN WHICH IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION OF SOME SUPPLIES IS LIKELY TO BE NECESSARY TO AVERT SEVERE SUFFERING.
  4. OUR RESPONSE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS NEED AS WELL AS THE
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FACT THAT US POSITION WITH GOC, CONTRASTED TO SOVIET POSITION,

HAS WEAKENED IN PAST TWO YEARS. WHILE MANY FACTORS ENTER INTO THIS EQUATION, PRINCIPAL SOVIET ASSETS HAVE BEEN: 1) PRESENCE IN CHAD FOR SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER THIS YEAR OF SOVIET PLANES AT DISPOSAL OF GOC; 2) ARRIVAL OF GOOD SIZE SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENT; 3) LARGE SCALE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN SOVIET UNION.

5. WHILE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR HAS INDICATED TO ME DISTASTE FOR ANOTHER AIR SUPPORT OPERATION, I AM SURE THAT IF WE REFUSE REQUEST, SOVIETS WILL ACQUIESCE IN ORDER TO FURTHER BUTRESS THEIR POSITION IN CHAD.

6. IF US HAD NO TANGIBLE INTERESTS IN CHAD, I WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO RECOMMEND US INVOLVEMENT IN AIRLIFT DESPITE THE FOREGOING. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE CASE. PETROLEUM PROSPECTS IN CHAD ARE LOOKING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER AND AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE HEAVILY INVOLVED. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE INTERESTED IN BOTH PROTECTING US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AND IN INSURING AVAILABILITY OF FUTURE SUPPLIES. TO THIS END, GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOC ARE HIGHLY DESIRABLE. IT IS ON THIS BASIS THAT WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING QUALIFIED-POSITIVE RESPONSE TO GOC: 1) US GOVERNMENT IS COORDINATING ITS RELIEF EFFORTS THROUGH WFP AND DOES NOT WISH TO CONFUSE PROGRAM BY DIRECT BILATERAL ACTION; 2) HOWEVER, US GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES GRAVITY OF SITUATION POINTED OUT BY GOC IN ITS NOTE OF DEC. 6; 3) THEREFORE, US GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO OFFER TO GOC, THROUGH WFP, ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF PLANES OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF AIR OPERATION FOR EMERGENCY MOVEMENT RIF SUPPLIES WITHIN CHAD DURING EARLY STAGE OF RELIEF EFFORT; AND 4) WITH GOC CONCURRENCE, US GOVERNMENT WILL INITIATE CONSULTATION WITH WFP ON THIS ISSUE IMMEDIATELY.

7. AS A GOOD DEAL OF THE CREDIT WHICH WE MAY GET FOR OUR ACTIONS WILL COME FROM RAPIDITY OF OUR RESPONSE, A PROMPT REPLY ALONG FOREGOING LINES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. BRADFORD

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## Message Attributes

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